

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

May 30th, 2014

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource

Alberta ■ Government



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1 Dismantled Wall

Would you feel safe in a building if one of the walls were falling apart? This first story is about a building that is said to be safe, with the exception of one wall.

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
	unstable	a) many a lot
	several	b) covered hidden
	engineers	c) take apart take down
	buried	d) remains junk
	debris	e) not sturdy not solid
	dismantle	f) builders designers

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

piece by piece – one bit at a time

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Order of events

Number the sentences according to what would have happened first (1), second (2), third (3), ... last (5), etc. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ The wall gets dismantled, piece by piece.
2. _____ Bricks are falling off the building.
3. _____ The area is still closed.
4. _____ A motorcycle and 5 vehicles are buried in debris.
5. _____ Engineers say the building is safe, but the wall has to go.

Discussion: Who is affected by the dismantling of this wall? Who should have to pay for the damage and mess created by the dismantling of the wall?

News story #2 Adopt a Moose

Do you think humans should get involved in wildlife matters? How much and what kind of involvement should people have in wild animals' lives? This second story is about a group of people who are finding a new moose mom for an orphaned moose calf.

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary: Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
moose (noun)	a large brown animal that looks like a deer with big antlers on its head
orphan (noun)	a baby without a mother or father
calf (noun)	baby animal e.g. baby moose or cow
sign (noun)	clue or hint
director (noun)	the person in charge
survive (verb)	to live

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Alberta Wildlife facility – A group of Albertans that work towards preserving and helping wildlife
wildlife – wild animals that live in natural settings

1. The _____ makes all of the decisions.
2. The poor little _____ was left alone, without its' parents.
3. Give me a _____ to let me know how you feel.
4. The calf will hopefully _____ with the help of the wildlife people.
5. The moose gave birth to a _____.
6. The mother _____ left its baby calf behind for some reason.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. An Alberta Wildlife facility has found a mother moose for the orphan.
2. The moose calf was a couple of days old when it was caught.
3. The moose calf was caught eating the flowers in Royal Oak.
4. The moose calf's mother was also in Royal Oak, but it ran away.
5. Carol Kelly thinks that finding the orphan moose a mother will help it.
6. It is likely that the calf will die without a mother.

Discussion Question

How do you think the wildlife facility will find a mother moose to adopt the orphaned calf? What details will they need to think about in their search?

News story #3 Calgary Marathon

Do you like to run? How often do you run? What is the furthest you have ever run? What are the health benefits of running? This next story is about this year's Calgary Marathon.

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
1.	runners	a) a 42 kilometer run
2.	takeover	b) something that many people like or do
3.	marathon	c) people who run
4.	organizer	d) a person who takes part in something
5.	popular	e) ongoing; over and over
6.	participant	f) to control
7.	continually	g) to manage and coordinate something
8.	organize	h) a person who manages and coordinates something

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

prize money – the money you win for doing something

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Listen to the audio and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Where will people be running during the marathon?
2. How many Calgary Marathons have there been?
3. How long is the special distance that is being added in this year?
4. How many participants are expected this year?
5. How many more participants is there this year, from last year?
6. What is different about Calgary's Marathon from other races in the country?

Activity: The prize money for this race is \$50,000. What would you do if you won \$50,000? Create a budget plan and show what you would do with the money if you were to win it.

Language Focus: Cause and Effect

Identifying cause and effect can help us understand the order of events better when we are either listening or reading. Each action (cause) leads to an outcome (effect).

Let's look at the second story, for example: **Adopt a Moose**

Cause		Effect
A moose calf was running around Royal Oaks		It was caught by an Alberta Wildlife facility
There was no sign of the mother moose		They needed to find the baby moose a mother
If they find the orphan moose a mother		The orphan moose will likely survive

We can then link the first cause with the final effect and *write a statement that summarizes the whole story, for example:* Because the calf was running around Royal Oaks, the Wildlife facility was able to find it and they will now find the calf a mother, so it can survive.

Now you try it with the first story: **Dismantled Wall**

Cause		Effect
Bricks from a wall on a building between 6 th ave and 7 th street were falling		

Summary of story:

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MAY 30 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of May 30 th .	0:00
Story 1	An unstable wall on a downtown building has now been taken down, piece by piece. Bricks from the office building at 6th avenue and 7th street S.W. started falling off last week. Engineers say the building itself is safe, but the wall had to go. A motorcycle and five vehicles sitting in the parking lot below have been buried by debris. The dismantling took several hours. The area is still closed.	0:08
Story 2	An Alberta Wildlife facility will soon be looking for a moose mother to take on an orphan from Calgary. A moose calf - just a day or two old - was caught this afternoon after it was found running through Royal Oak for about an hour. There was no sign of a mother nearby. Carol Kelly is the director Medicine River Wildlife Centre, Innisfail. She said that if a mum can be found the moose has a good chance of surviving.	0:45
Story 3	Thousands of runners are set to takeover city streets this weekend for the 50th anniversary of the Calgary Marathon. Organizers are offering 50-thousand dollars in prize money and are adding a special distance this year -- a 50 kilometre race. The marathon is as popular as ever; with the number of participants expected to top 15-thousand. Executive Director Kirsten Fleming says that's almost 30 per cent more runners than last year. When it comes to big city marathons, there are bigger and faster races in the country. But Calgary is the oldest, continually run marathon in Canada that's been organized by the same group.	1:26

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
e	unstable	a) many a lot
a	several	b) covered hidden
f	engineers	c) take apart take down
b	buried	e) remains junk
d	debris	e) not sturdy not solid
c	dismantle	f) builders designers

Listening:

1. 3 The wall gets dismantled, piece by piece.
2. 1 Bricks are falling off the building.
3. 5 The area is still closed.
4. 4 A motorcycle and 5 vehicles are buried in debris.
5. 2 Engineers say the wall is safe, but the wall has to go.

News story 2

Vocabulary:

1. The director makes all of the decisions.
2. The poor little orphan was left alone, without its' parents.
3. Give me a sign to let me know how you feel.
4. The calf will hopefully survive with the help of the wildlife people.
5. The moose gave birth to a calf.
6. The mother moose left its baby calf behind for some reason.

Listening:

1. F An Alberta Wildlife facility has found a mother moose for the orphan.
2. T The moose calf was a couple of days old when it was caught.

3. F The moose calf was caught eating the flowers in Royal Oak.
4. F The moose calf's mother was also in Royal Oak, but it ran away.
5. T Carol Kelly thinks that finding the orphan moose a mother will help it.
6. T It is likely that the calf will die without a mother.

News story 3

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
c	1. runners	a) a 42 kilometer run
f	2. takeover	b) something that many people like or do
a	3. marathon	c) people who run
h	4. organizer	d) a person who takes part in something
b	5. popular	e) ongoing; over and over
d	6. participant	f) to control
e	7. continually	g) to manage and coordinate something
g	8. organize	h) a person who manages and coordinates something

Listening:

1. Where will people be running during the marathon? **City streets**
2. How many Calgary Marathons have there been? **This year is the 50th (49)**
3. How long is the special distance that is being added in this year? **50 km**
4. How many participants are expected this year? **15,000**
5. How many more participants is there this year, from last year? **30% more**
6. What is different about Calgary's Marathon from other races in the country? **It's the oldest, continually run.**

Language focus:

Dismantled Wall

Cause		Effect
Bricks from a wall on a building between 6 th ave and 7 th street were falling		Engineers looked at the building
Engineers said the wall was unstable		The wall was taken down piece by piece
A motor cycle and 5 cars were in a parking lot at the time of		The vehicles are covered in debris

the wall was being dismantled		
The area is a mess		The area is still closed

Summary of story: Because the bricks were falling off the building, the engineers said the wall had to be taken down, and now the area is covered in debris and is closed off from the public.